

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. The bills should be easy to understand because some people can't figure out what all these chargers are for and why they are being charged for them in the first place, what happened to the phone bills in the past where you could understand what it was all about, now there are so many extra things on there that don't make any sense, they weren't there before and now they are and it is totally insane. You call a phone company to get their service and they say this is how much it is going to cost you for the month, but they don't tell you you have to pay all these other charges for what you thought were included in the package, besides that when you want to change carriers you can't even do that because one company has so much control over everything you can't get what you want, or whom you want to be your provider.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.